

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 20 are pending in the present application. With this response, the paragraph at page 1, line 7 has been amended; claim 1 has been cancelled; a new claim 21 has been added; and claims 2, 6, 8 and 10 have been amended. The attached Appendix shows red-lined markings identifying the changes made. No new matter has been added.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,181,825 B1 to Ragland et al. Claims 2 - 16 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 17 - 20 have been allowed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated allowable subject matter in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the art of record did not teach or suggest detecting diffuse edges and compacting pixels within the diffuse edges. Furthermore, the Examiner indicated that the art of record did not teach or suggest detecting diffuse edges and shifting gray from a pixel that is not adjacent to a saturated pixel to a pixel that is adjacent to a saturated pixel.

Claims 2, 6, 8 and 10 have been amended to be in independent form and to include those features of the independent claim such that the claims are consistent with the stated reasons for the indication of allowance provided by the Examiner.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection. Also, an early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited. Entrance of this amendment as well as reconsideration and allowance of the claims remaining are therefore respectfully requested.

The undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney (or agent) hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox



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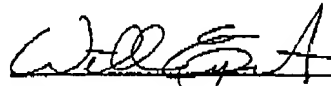
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Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

Respectfully submitted,



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